

Sketch

Volume 17, Number 1

1950

Article 9

Microscope

Elinor Chase*

*Iowa State College

Copyright ©1950 by the authors. *Sketch* is produced by The Berkeley Electronic Press (bepress).
<http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/sketch>

Microscope

Elinor Chase

Abstract

Bacteria. Weight not one millimicrogram. Diameter hardly big enough to catch one beam of light...

finish them off when he saw the setup. I shot them again, but something crawled inside me while these people twitched and became bodies. I'm going to live with this inside me, and that damned major won't even think of it again.

—Dwyer Duncan, *Sci. Jr.*



MICROSCOPE

Bacteria.
Weight not one millimicrogram.
Diameter hardly big enough to catch one beam of light.
Swimming in an oily hemisphere
As if complete and free to choose.
Swimming freely, blindly,
Always two or twenty,
In rings or long and twisting chains,
The pathway pre-ordained.
Each one red, the world a mottled scarlet;
The student speckles red his clean white circle,
Not knowing he is nonexistent
To the world he scans with bored and watery eye,
That oily universe. His eyelash
Is a planet, and his eye is space
And endless emptiness of sky.

—Elinor Chase, *H. Ec. Sr.*